

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14077 070759Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-00 /076 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4778
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, RP
SUBJECT: ICRC MISSIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES

REF: GENEVA 7119

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF A LETTER DATED JUNE 27 FROM
AMBASSADOR EDUARDO ROMALDEZ TO CONGRESSMAN BERKLEY BEDELL
REFERRING TO THE CONGRESSMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE PHILIPPINES
MADE ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE MAY 23. ROMUALDEZ' LETTER
ENCLOSES A NINE-PAGE LETTER OF JUNE 14 FROM DND SECRETARY
ENRILE TO DFA SECRETARY ROMULO IN WHICH ENRILE PRESENTS
A "POINT-BY-POINT REFUTATION" OF THE VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUES RAISED BY THE CONGRESSMAN. AMONG THE POINTS MADE
BY ENRILE IN A SECTION ENTITLED "MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS"
IS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE. THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS HAS CONDUCTED YEARLY VISITS
TO PHILIPPINE DETENTION CENTERS SINCE 1973 AND INVARIABLY
FOUND CONDITIONS SATISFACTORY. ANY INADEQUACIES NOTED WERE
IMMEDIATELY REMEDIED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. ADMITTEDLY,
DESPITE THE MOST STRINGENT MEASURES TO PREVENT MALTREATMENT
OF DETAINEES, ISOLATED VIOLATIONS DO OCCUR DUE TO HUMAN
FRAILTY. THIS WE CANNOT AVOID. BUT THE GOVERNMENT NEITHER
TOLERATES NOR CONDONES SUCH VIOLATIONS. UNQUOTE.

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2. NOTWITHSTANDING THE "TOP SECRET" LABEL WHICH THE ICRC
EVIDENTLY PLACES ON ITS INSPECTIONS OF DETENTION FACILITIES
(REFTEL), WE WOULD HOPE THAT MISSION GENEVA MIGHT SEEK A
SUBSTANTIVE READING ON THE RECENT ICRC INSPECTION OF
POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE PHILIPPINES. THIS WOULD BE USEFUL
TO US IN VIEW OF OUR CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT THE ROOTING

OUT OF TORTURE AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON IN THE PHILIPPINES AND IN THE LIGHT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE'S IMPENDING VISIT HERE. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO KNOW OF ANY RECENT CASES OF TORTURE (SAY, OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS) TURNED UP BY THE ICRC INSPECTION TEAM. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF ICRC AUTHORITIES AGREE WITH THE GOP'S ASSERTION THAT ICRC MISSIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES HAVE FOUND CONDITIONS IN THE DENTENTION CENTERS "INVARIABLY... SATISFACTORY.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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